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Case No.: PHF 99,631 (7790/268)  
Serial No.: 09/649,931  
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**AMENDEMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the application.

Please cancel claims 1-6 as shown below without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claims 1-6.

Please add new claims 7-10 as shown below.

This listing of claims 7-10 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A functional system, comprising:

a collective resource;

a plurality of functional units requiring access to said collective resource; and  
an interface in electrical communication with said collective resource and said

functional units to implement a scheme for managing access to said collective resource by said functional units,

wherein said interface implements a plurality of states in a predetermined manner, and

wherein at least one state includes a pre-defined order of priority for facilitating access to said collective resource by one of said functional units among at least two of said functional units.

8. (New) A data processing system, comprising:

a collective memory;

a plurality of processors requiring access to said collective memory; and

an interface in electrical communication with said collective memory and said processors to implement a scheme for managing access to said collective memory by said processors,

wherein said interface implements a plurality of states in a predetermined manner, and

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wherein at least one state includes a pre-defined order of priority for facilitating access to said collective memory by one of said processors among at least two of said processors.

9. (New) A computer readable medium storing a computer program product for managing access to a collective memory by a plurality of functional units, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer readable code for implementing a plurality of states in a predetermined manner, and

for at least one state, computer readable code for pre-defining an order of priority for facilitating access to the collective resource by one of the functional units among at least two of the functional units.

10. (New) A method for managing access to a collective resource by a plurality of functional units, said method comprising:

implementing a first state having a pre-defined order of priority for facilitating access to the collective resource by one of the functional units among at least two of the functional units; and

facilitating access to the collective resource by a first functional unit having a first pending request and a first highest priority during the implementation of the first state.